

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Dan Kikinis, *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/783,932

Filed: February 14, 2001

For: A Method and System for
Inputting Time in a Video
Environment Using Sliders

Atty. Docket No.: 007287.00033

Group Art Unit: 2174

Examiner: Muhebbullah, Sajeda

Confirmation No.: 1334

APPEAL BRIEF

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Sir:

This is an Appeal Brief filed in support of Appellants' June 17, 2009, Notice of Appeal.

Appeal is taken from the Final Office Action mailed March 17, 2009 ("Final Office Action").

Applicants request any necessary extension of time for the submission of this paper. If any fees are required, please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0733 accordingly.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(i)

The owner of this application, and the real party in interest, is JLB Ventures, LLC.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(ii)

There are no related appeals or interferences.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(iii)

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 12, 27, and 30-39 stand rejected and are presently appealed. Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 13-26, 28, and 29 were previously canceled.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(iv)

No amendments have been made subsequent to final rejection.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(v)

In making reference herein to various embodiments in the specification text and/or drawings to explain the claimed invention, Appellants do not intend to limit the claims to those embodiments; all references to the specification and drawings are illustrative unless otherwise explicitly stated. Appellants refer to the originally filed Specification dated February 14, 2001, (“Specification”) for the cited support.

Independent Claim 1

Independent claim 1 recites a computer-implemented method for displaying data associated with an electronic program guide. *See, e.g.*, Specification at p. 14, lines 12-19. The method includes displaying one or more programming content sliders, each slider having a draggable slide knob and two ends, wherein each of the sliders corresponds to an aspect of programming content

and comprises an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-15; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 16-20; p. 15, lines 13-15; p. 16, line 20 to p. 17, line 8. The method further includes, for each of the one or more programming content sliders, displaying a currently set value of the slider based on a position of the slider's draggable slide knob in between the slider's ends. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 15, lines 6-7; p. 15, lines 9-10; p. 15, line 12; p. 17, lines 3-4. The method further includes displaying electronic program guide data corresponding to the currently set values of the one or more sliders, the electronic program guide data comprising a set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the currently set values of the one or more sliders. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-19; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 16-20; p. 16, lines 1-7; p. 17, lines 6-7. The method further includes receiving user input corresponding to a drag of one of the draggable slide knobs to a new position in between the ends of the corresponding programming content slider. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-19; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 13-15; p. 17, lines 6-7. The method further includes updating the display of the programming content slider corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob by changing the displayed value of the slider based on the new position of the dragged draggable slider knob in between the slider's ends. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-15; p. 15, lines 4-15; p. 17, lines 3-8. And the method further includes updating the displayed electronic program guide data to correspond to the changed value of the programming content slider corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob, the updated electronic program guide data comprising a second set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the changed value of the slider. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-19; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 13-20; p. 16, lines 1-7; p. 16, line 20 to p. 17, line 8.

Independent Claim 3

Independent claim 3 recites a device for displaying data associated with an electronic program guide. *See, e.g.*, Specification at p. 10, line 11 to p. 11, line 13; FIG. 2; p. 14, lines 12-19. The device includes a display configured to display one or more programming content sliders, each slider having a draggable slide knob and two ends, wherein each of the sliders corresponds to an aspect of programming content and comprises an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 2; FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 11, lines 7-9; p. 14, lines 12-15; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 16-20; p. 15, lines 13-15; p. 16, line 20 to p. 17, line 8. The device further includes wherein the display is further configured to display, for each of the one or more programming content sliders, a currently set value based on a position of the slider's draggable slide knob in between the slider's ends. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 15, lines 6-7; p. 15, lines 9-10; p. 15, line 12; p. 17, lines 3-4. The device further includes wherein the display is further configured to present electronic program guide data corresponding to the currently set values of the one or more sliders, the electronic program guide data comprising a set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the currently set values displayed on the one or more draggable slide knobs. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-19; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 16-20; p. 16, lines 1-7; p. 17, lines 6-7. The device further includes an input device configured to receive user input corresponding to a drag of one of the draggable slide knobs to a new position in between the ends of the corresponding programming content slider. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 2; FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 11, lines 4-7; p. 14, lines 12-19; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 13-15; p. 17, lines 6-7. The device further includes wherein the display is further configured to update the display of the programming content slider corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob by changing the displayed value of the slider based on the new position of the dragged draggable slider knob in between the slider's ends. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-15; p. 15, lines 4-15; p. 17, lines 3-8. The device

further includes wherein the display is further configured to update the presentation of said electronic program guide data to correspond to the changed value of the programming content slider corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob, the updated electronic program guide data comprising a second set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the changed value of the slider. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-19; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 13-20; p. 16, lines 1-7; p. 16, line 20 to p. 17, line 8.

Independent Claim 7

Independent claim 7 recites a system for displaying data associated with an electronic program guide. *See, e.g.,* Specification at p. 8, line 18 to p. 9, line 5; p. 10, line 11 to p. 11, line 13; FIG. 2; p. 14, lines 12-19. The system includes means displaying one or more programming content sliders, each slider having a draggable slide knob and two ends, wherein each of the sliders corresponds to an aspect of programming content and comprises an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 2; FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 11, lines 7-9; p. 14, lines 12-15; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 16-20; p. 15, lines 13-15; p. 16, line 20 to p. 17, line 8. The system further includes means for displaying, for each of the one or more programming content sliders a currently set value of the slider based on a position of the slider's draggable slide knob in between the slider's ends. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 15, lines 6-7; p. 15, lines 9-10; p. 15, line 12; p. 17, lines 3-4. The system further includes means for displaying electronic program guide data corresponding to the currently set values of the one or more sliders, the electronic program guide data comprising a set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the currently set values of the one or more sliders. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-19; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 16-20; p. 16, lines 1-7; p. 17, lines 6-7. The system further includes means for receiving user input corresponding to a drag of one of the draggable slide knobs to a new

position in between the ends of the corresponding programming content slider. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 2; FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 11, lines 4-7; p. 14, lines 12-19; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 13-15; p. 17, lines 6-7. The system further includes means for updating the display of the programming content slider corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob by changing the displayed value of the slider based on the new position of the dragged draggable slider knob in between the slider's ends. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-15; p. 15, lines 4-15; p. 17, lines 3-8. And the system further includes means for updating the displayed electronic program guide data to correspond to the changed value of the programming content slider corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob, the updated electronic program guide data comprising a second set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the changed value of the slider. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-19; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 13-20; p. 16, lines 1-7; p. 16, line 20 to p. 17, line 8.

Independent Claim 9

Independent claim 9 recites a computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions for displaying data associated with an electronic program guide, said plurality of instructions when executed by a computer, cause said computer to perform a method. *See, e.g.,* Specification at p. 8, line 18 to p. 9, line 5; p. 10, line 11 to p. 11, line 13; FIG. 2; p. 14, lines 12-19. The method includes displaying one or more programming content sliders, each slider having a draggable slide knob and two ends, wherein each of the sliders corresponds to an aspect of programming content and comprises an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-15; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 16-20; p. 15, lines 13-15; p. 16, line 20 to p. 17, line 8. The method further includes for each of the one or more programming content sliders, displaying a currently set value of the slider based on a position

of the slider's draggable slide knob in between the slider's ends. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 15, lines 6-7; p. 15, lines 9-10; p. 15, line 12; p. 17, lines 3-4. The method further includes displaying electronic program guide data corresponding to the currently set values of the one or more sliders, the electronic program guide data comprising a set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the currently set values of the one or more sliders. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-19; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 16-20; p. 16, lines 1-7; p. 17, lines 6-7. The method further includes receiving user input corresponding to a drag of one of the draggable slide knobs to a new position in between the ends of the corresponding programming content slider. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-19; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 13-15; p. 17, lines 6-7. The method further includes updating the display of the programming content slider corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob by changing the displayed value of the slider based on the new position of the dragged draggable slider knob in between the slider's ends. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-15; p. 15, lines 4-15; p. 17, lines 3-8. And the method further includes updating the displayed electronic program guide data to correspond to the changed value of the programming content slider corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob, the updated electronic program guide data comprising a second set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the changed value of the slider. *See, e.g., id.* at FIG. 4; FIG. 6; p. 14, lines 12-19; p. 15, lines 1-3; p. 15, lines 13-20; p. 16, lines 1-7; p. 16, line 20 to p. 17, line 8.

Dependent Claims 31 and 36

Dependent claims 31 and 36 depend respectively from claims 1 and 3, and further recite wherein at least one of the programming content sliders corresponds to a genre slider with a draggable genre slide knob. *See, e.g.,* Specification at p. 15, lines 16-19; p. 15, lines 13-15.

Dependent Claims 32 and 37

Dependent claims 32 and 37 depend respectively from claims 1 and 3, and further recite, wherein one of the programming content sliders corresponds to one of an actor slider with a draggable actor slide knob, or a director slider with a draggable director slide knob. *See, e.g.*, Specification at p. 15, lines 16-19; p. 15, lines 13-15.

GROUND S OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(vi)

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 12, 27, 30-31, 33, 35-36, and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,005,601 to Ohkura et al. (“Ohkura”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,064,943 to Clark, Jr. et al. (“Clark”).

Claims 32, 34, 37, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkura and Clark in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,323,911 to Schein et al. (“Schein”).

ARGUMENT

37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(vii)

I. The Office Has Failed To Provide An Articulated Reason, Motivation, Or Analysis To Support The Purported Combination Of Ohkura And Clark.

Furthermore, Appellants submit that the Office has failed to explain why a person of ordinary skill in the art would combine Ohkura with Clark. As the Supreme Court recently noted, an analysis regarding the interrelated teachings of multiple patents, the effects of demands known to the design community or present in the marketplace, and the background knowledge possessed by a person having ordinary skill in the art should be made explicit in the record to determine whether there was an apparent reason to combine the known elements in the fashion claimed. *See KSR Int’l Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.*, 82 USPQ2d 1385, 1396 (U.S. 2007) (emphasis added).

Rather than providing an explicit analysis, however, the Final Office Action simply states that “[i]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to

combine Clark's teaching with Ohkura's method as more convenient method [*sic*] of setting the programming time via the slide knob."¹ See Final Office Action at 3. This conclusory statement falls far short of the explicit analysis required by *KSR*. In this case, Ohkura is directed to an apparatus for and method of controlling display of an electronic programming guide, while Clark is directed to a computer network and portable device to facilitate data collection in a farming operation. The Clark reference is entirely unrelated to electronic programming guides, and the Ohkura reference is entirely unrelated to collecting and analyzing agricultural / farming data. At best, the Final Office Action's combination of Ohkura and Clark is the product of impermissible hindsight. See Ohkura at 1:6-7; Clark at 1:16-60. For this reason, and because the Office has failed to provide an explicit analysis of why a person of ordinary skill in the art would combine Ohkura with Clark, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

II. Independent Claims 1, 3, 7, and 9

Independent claim 1 recites a method, comprising, *inter alia*, displaying one or more programming content sliders, each slider having a slide knob and two ends, wherein each of the sliders corresponds to an aspect of programming content and comprises an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs. The Final Office Action asserts that Ohkura discloses these features in FIG. 10, and the Final Office Action further makes specific reference to elements 100Y and 100Z in that figure. See Final Office Action at 2.

However, FIG. 10 of Ohkura only explains that a cursor in a relevant selection area may be moved up or down in response to a user manually depressing the up and down keys of a remote

¹ In response to similar arguments made in Appellant's Response and Request for Reconsideration of November 20, 2009, the Final Office Action merely asserts that "the method of Ohkura may be modified to include draggable slide knobs as those shown in Clark to set the time for programming content. It is very well known to move the cursor via keys or thru [*sic*] the dragging of the mouse." See Final Office Action at 7.

commander. *See* Ohkura at 9:18-24.² Thus, FIG. 10 of Ohkura does not disclose “programming content sliders” having “slide knobs,” as alleged by the Final Office Action. Indeed, the Ohkura reference never even mentions the terms “slide,” “slide knob,” “slider,” or “sliding,” nor does it describe any similar concept for a user interface component. Thus, Ohkura does not teach or suggest “programming content sliders, each slider having [a] slide knob and two ends, wherein each of the sliders corresponds to an aspect of programming content,” as recited in independent claim 1. Since the Final Office Action relies on Ohkura as allegedly teaching “programming content sliders” having slide knobs and corresponding to aspects of programming content, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn for this reason alone.

Furthermore, Clark does not cure the deficiencies of Ohkura because Clark also fails to teach or suggest “programming content sliders,” as recited in independent claim 1. While Clark discloses “slide bars” that may be used in “entering numerical data such as hours and minutes” into a portable computer that is used in collecting and compiling farm data, Clark never teaches or suggests “programming content sliders, each slider having a draggable slide knob and two ends, wherein each of the sliders corresponds to an aspect of programming content.” *See* Clark at 8:25-30 (explaining that “[b]y depressing and moving any one of the ‘slide bars’, the number in the hours or minutes display may be moved up or down to match the desired time to be entered”); *id.* at 6:8-12 (stating that “a mobile computer 20 ... is used to collect and compile farm data for transmission back to a host computer”); *id.* at FIG. 8 (illustrating a user interface that includes “slide bars”).

² This passage of Ohkura discloses: “If it is determined at the decision step s6 that the movable cursor is the cursor 100Y placed at the area Y, then control goes to a step S7c, whereat the cursor 100Y of the area Y (i.e., area in which title of program, etc., are displayed) is moved up or down in response to the depression of the up-button switch 124 or the down-button switch 125 to select the program.” Ohkura at 9:18-24 (emphasis added). Ohkura also discloses that with regard to the remote commander, “[a]n up-button switch (up key) 124, a down-button switch (down key) 125, a left-button switch (left key) 126 and a right-button switch (right key) 127 are pressed in order to move the cursors (e.g., cursors 100X1, 100X2, 100Y, and 100Z shown in FIG. 6) displayed on the screen upper, lower, left and right.” Ohkura at 7:22-27.

Even if one were to attempt to combine the “slide bars” of Clark with the cursor areas of Ohkura, one would not arrive at displaying one or more programming content sliders recited in independent claim 1. Rather, because Clark only contemplates using “slide bars” for entering numerical data, such as a duration of time in hours and minutes, the “slide bars” of the alleged Clark-Ohura combination would not comprise an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs. Thus, independent claim 1 is allowable because neither Ohkura nor Clark, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests displaying one or more programming content sliders, each slider having a draggable slide knob and two ends, wherein each of the sliders corresponds to an aspect of programming content and comprises an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs, as recited in independent claim 1.

Independent claims 3, 7, and 9 recite similar features to those recited of independent claim 1, and thus claims 3, 7, and 9 are allowable over the purported combination of claims for similar reasons as independent claim 1.

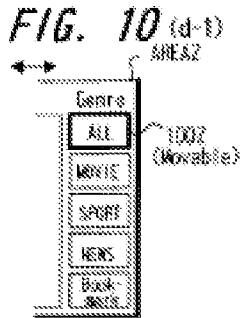
III. Dependent Claims 31, 32, 36, and 37.

Dependent claims 31-32 and 36-37 depend from independent claims 1 and 3, and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims, and further in view of the additional patentable features recited therein.

Claims 31 and 36 depend respectively from claims 1 and 3, and further recite, “wherein at least one of the programming content sliders corresponds to a genre slider with a draggable genre slide knob.” The Final Office Action asserts that Ohkura discloses these features in FIG. 10 (d-1). *See* Final Office Action at 4.

As described above, Ohkura only discloses a cursor area in which a selected area may be moved up or down in response to a user manually depressing the up and down keys of a remote

commander. *See supra* at 8. Thus, Ohkura does not teach or suggest “a genre slider with a draggable genre slide knob,” as recited in claims 31 and 36. FIG. 10 (d-1), the figure relied-upon by the Final Office Action, is reproduced below along with its corresponding description:



Specifically, as shown in FIG. 10 (d-1), when the cursor 100Z of the area Z is movable, if the left button switch 126 40 is depressed once, then the area in which the movable cursor exists is moved to the area Y shown in FIG. 10 (c-1) (cursor 100Y becomes movable).

Ohkura at FIG. 10 (d-1); *id.* at 9:38-43. The image and corresponding descriptions shown above are completely devoid of any teaching or suggestion of a genre slider with a draggable slide knob. Once again, this figure of Ohkura and its corresponding description only disclose a cursor in a selection area being moved up or down in response to a user manually depressing the up and down keys of a remote commander. *See id.* at FIG. 10 (d-1); *id.* at 9:38-43.

Nor does Clark cure the deficiencies of Ohkura. First, Clark makes no mention at all of a “genre,” and, as discussed above, Clark is entirely unrelated to the field of electronic programming guides. Furthermore, no possible combination of Clark and Ohkura could result in a genre slider with a draggable genre slide knob for similar reasons to those discussed above. *See supra* at 8-9. Specifically, because Clark only contemplates using “slide bars” for entering numerical data, such as a duration of time in hours and minutes, the “slide bars” of the purported Clark-Ohura combination would not include a genre slider with a draggable slide knob.

Thus, dependent claims 31 and 36 are further allowable at least because neither Ohkura nor Clark, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests, “wherein at least one of the programming content sliders corresponds to a genre slider with a draggable genre slide knob.” .

Claims 32 and 37 depend respectively from claims 1 and 3, and further recite, “wherein one of the programming content sliders corresponds to one of an actor slider with a draggable actor slide knob, or a director slider with a draggable director slide knob.” The Final Office Action correctly acknowledges that no possible combination of Ohkura and Clark teaches or suggests an actor slider with a draggable actor slide knob or a director slider with a draggable slide knob, but then alleges that Schein at 13:15-24 discloses “a method of displaying program content wherein content may be viewed based on actor.” *See* Final Office Action at 5. The portion of Schein relied-upon by the Final Office Action is reproduced below:

FIGS. 11A-11E illustrate a method of ordering video on demand. As shown in 10A, the viewer opens up the program's InfoMenu 130 and thumb scrolls down to the “order videos” item. The viewer is then presented with an easily scrollable matrix or menu (not shown) of movies or other programs that may be ordered. To facilitate this process, the system may include a text or feature searching program that allows the viewer to search for a particular movie, a particular type of movie, movies having a certain actor or actress, etc.

Schein at 13:15-24. As is evident from the above passage, Schein merely discloses allowing a user to perform a text search for movies having a particular type, a certain actor or actress, etc. Schein is completely devoid of any teaching or suggestion of an actor slider with a draggable actor slide knob or a director slider with a draggable director slide knob.

Neither Clark nor Ohkura cure the deficiencies of Schein, because as acknowledged by the Final Office Action, no possible combination of Ohkura and Clark teaches or suggests an actor slider with a draggable actor slide knob or a director slider with a draggable slide knob. *See* Final Office Action at 5. Thus, dependent claims 32 and 37 are allowable because none of the cited

references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests, “wherein one of the programming content sliders corresponds to one of an actor slider with a draggable actor slide knob, or a director slider with a draggable director slide knob.”

IV. Dependent Claims 11, 12, 27, 30, 33-35, and 38-39

Claims 11, 12, 27, 30, 33-35, and 38-39 ultimately depend from one of claims 1 or 3, and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, Appellants respectfully submit that the final rejection of claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 12, 27, and 30-39 is improper and should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: October 19, 2009

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CLAIMS APPENDIX
37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(viii)

Claims involved in the appeal:

1. (Rejected) A computer-implemented method for displaying data associated with an electronic program guide, comprising:

displaying one or more programming content sliders, each slider having a draggable slide knob and two ends, wherein each of the sliders corresponds to an aspect of programming content and comprises an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs;

for each of the one or more programming content sliders, displaying a currently set value of the slider based on a position of the slider's draggable slide knob in between the slider's ends;

displaying electronic program guide data corresponding to the currently set values of the one or more sliders, the electronic program guide data comprising a set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the currently set values of the one or more sliders;

receiving user input corresponding to a drag of one of the draggable slide knobs to a new position in between the ends of the corresponding programming content slider;

updating the display of the programming content slider corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob by changing the displayed value of the slider based on the new position of the dragged draggable slider knob in between the slider's ends; and

updating the displayed electronic program guide data to correspond to the changed value of the programming content slider corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob, the updated electronic program guide data comprising a second set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the changed value of the slider.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Rejected) A device for displaying data associated with an electronic program guide, comprising:

a display configured to display one or more programming content sliders, each slider having a draggable slide knob and two ends, wherein each of the sliders corresponds to an aspect of programming content and comprises an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs,

wherein the display is further configured to display, for each of the one or more programming content sliders, a currently set value based on a position of the slider's draggable slide knob in between the slider's ends,

wherein the display is further configured to present electronic program guide data corresponding to the currently set values of the one or more sliders, the electronic program guide data comprising a set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the currently set values displayed on the one or more draggable slide knobs; and

an input device configured to receive user input corresponding to a drag of one of the draggable slide knobs to a new position in between the ends of the corresponding programming content slider;

wherein the display is further configured to update the display of the programming content slider corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob by changing the displayed value of the slider based on the new position of the dragged draggable slider knob in between the slider's ends,

wherein the display is further configured to update the presentation of said electronic program guide data to correspond to the changed value of the programming content slider

corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob, the updated electronic program guide data comprising a second set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the changed value of the slider.

4-6. (Canceled)

7. (Rejected) A system for displaying data associated with an electronic program guide, comprising:

means displaying one or more programming content sliders, each slider having a draggable slide knob and two ends, wherein each of the sliders corresponds to an aspect of programming content and comprises an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs;

means for displaying, for each of the one or more programming content sliders a currently set value of the slider based on a position of the slider's draggable slide knob in between the slider's ends;

means for displaying electronic program guide data corresponding to the currently set values of the one or more sliders, the electronic program guide data comprising a set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the currently set values of the one or more sliders;

means for receiving user input corresponding to a drag of one of the draggable slide knobs to a new position in between the ends of the corresponding programming content slider;

means for updating the display of the programming content slider corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob by changing the displayed value of the slider based on the new position of the dragged draggable slider knob in between the slider's ends; and

means for updating the displayed electronic program guide data to correspond to the changed value of the programming content slider corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob, the updated electronic program guide data comprising a second set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the changed value of the slider.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Rejected) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions for displaying data associated with an electronic program guide, said plurality of instructions when executed by a computer, cause said computer to perform:

displaying one or more programming content sliders, each slider having a draggable slide knob and two ends, wherein each of the sliders corresponds to an aspect of programming content and comprises an associated set of content-related characteristics of broadcast programs;

for each of the one or more programming content sliders, displaying a currently set value of the slider based on a position of the slider's draggable slide knob in between the slider's ends;

displaying electronic program guide data corresponding to the currently set values of the one or more sliders, the electronic program guide data comprising a set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the currently set values of the one or more sliders;

receiving user input corresponding to a drag of one of the draggable slide knobs to a new position in between the ends of the corresponding programming content slider;

updating the display of the programming content slider corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob by changing the displayed value of the slider based on the new position of the dragged draggable slider knob in between the slider's ends; and

updating the displayed electronic program guide data to correspond to the changed value of the programming content slider corresponding to the dragged draggable slide knob, the updated electronic program guide data comprising a second set of one or more broadcast programs having characteristics that match the changed value of the slider.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Rejected) The computer-implemented method as in claim 1, further comprising, displaying the draggable slide knobs concurrently with the electronic program guide data.

12. (Rejected) The device as in claim 3, wherein the display is further configured to display the draggable slide knobs concurrently with the electronic program guide data.

13-26. (Canceled)

27. (Rejected) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the electronic program guide data corresponds to television program listings.

28-29. (Canceled)

30. (Rejected) The device of claim 3, wherein the electronic program guide data corresponds to television program listings.

31. (Rejected) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the programming content sliders corresponds to a genre slider with a draggable genre slide knob.

32. (Rejected) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the programming content sliders corresponds to one of an actor slider with a draggable actor slide knob, or a director slider with a draggable director slide knob.

33. (Rejected) The method of claim 1, wherein the received user input corresponds to a drag of the draggable slide knob of a first programming content slider, and

wherein the method further comprises updating the display of a second programming content slider to modify the associated set of content-related characteristics for the second programming content slider based on changed value of the first programming content slider.

34. (Rejected) The method of claim 33, wherein the first programming content slider corresponds to a genre slider, and wherein the second programming content slider corresponds to one of an actor slider or a director slider which is updated in response to the drag of the slide knob of the genre slider to display only actor values or director values that are associated with the changed value of the genre slider.

35. (Rejected) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the currently set values of each of the draggable slide knobs comprises displaying each currently set value directly on the corresponding draggable slide knob.

36. (Rejected) The device of claim 3, wherein at least one of the programming content sliders corresponds to a genre slider with a draggable genre slide knob.

37. (Rejected) The device of claim 3, wherein one of the programming content sliders corresponds to one of an actor slider with a draggable actor slide knob, or a director slider with a draggable director slide knob.

38. (Rejected) The device of claim 3, wherein the received user input corresponds to a drag of the draggable slide knob of a first programming content slider, and

wherein the method further comprises updating the display of a second programming content slider to modify the associated set of content-related characteristics for the second programming content slider based on changed value of the first programming content slider.

39. (Rejected) The device of claim 38, wherein the first programming content slider corresponds to a genre slider, and wherein the second programming content slider corresponds to one of an actor slider or a director slider which is updated in response to the drag of the slide knob of the genre slider to display only actor values or director values that are associated with the changed value of the genre slider.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX
37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(ix)

None.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX
37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(x)

None.